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FLOOR DEBATE

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campaign finance, that's when I came in. (Laugh) And whether that's good or not, I don't believe, if we had the laws in today, that I would be here today. When you are running against an incumbent who has name, power, money, and you're a challenger, you perhaps need a little more than that. So I look at the fairness of our election system, the fairness of those who want to seek office and want to certainly put themselves on the same level as the incumbent. And I personally feel that with the law that we have, the amendment that is proposed, that the challenger does not have the same advantage as an incumbent. So with that, it is interesting to sit back and watch a debate between two very well-versed attorneys, and to...it will also be interesting to see what the outcome is. With that, I'll return my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Jensen. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion, Beutler amendment AM2270 to the committee amendments. Senator Brown, followed by Senators Kruse, Redfield, Schrock, Erdman, Schimek, Beutler, Brashear, and Smith. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members, I am going to make a quick comment that I think we need to be very careful in equating corruption, as is going on in Washington right now, with whether or not you support the mechanics of this particular bill. And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Kruse.

SENATOR KRUSE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I stand in support of the amendment, and listen to the debate with great interest, as several of you have mentioned. The first thing that hits me as I listen to the debate is, if it were not for this bill, I would not be standing here, period. No way in God's green earth that I could have overcome an incumbent who was not under a limit. That incumbent could have overwhelmed the election, and would have. I had to...we hear about free speech. It's an interesting term here. Salvation is free, but you still have to pay the preacher. Free speech costs money. The only free speech I had when I was running against an incumbent is what I gave at the doorway as I talked to somebody.